POET. Upon the heels[4] of my presentment[5], sir. Let's see your piece.
PAIN. 'Tis a good piece[6].
POET. So 'tis: this comes off well and excellent[7].
PAIN. Indifferent.
PO&T. Admirable *i* How this grace

4 Upon the heels, &c.] As soon as my book has been pre
sented to lord Timon. JOHNSON.
5 — presentment,] The patrons of Shakspeare's age do not
appear to have been all Timons.
" I did determine not to have dedicated ray play to any body, because^orfo/ *shillings* I care not for, and above., few or none will bestow on these matters." Preface to A Woman is a, Weathercock, by N. Field, 1612. STEEVENS.
It should, however, be remembered, that forty shillings at that time, were equal to at least six, perhaps eight, pounds at this day,
MALONE.
[6] 'Tis a good piece.] As the metre is here defective, it is not
improbable that our author originally wrote^-
" 'Tis a good piece,
indeed" So, in The Winter's Tale:
" ' Tis *grace indeed.*[19] STEEPENS.
7— this comes OFF well and excellent.] The meaning is, the
figure rises well from the canvas. *Oest bien releve.* JOHNSON.
What it> meant by this term of applause I do not exactly know. It occurs again in The Widow, by Ben Jonson, Fletcher, and Mid.dleton;
" It *comes off* very fair yet/'
Again, in A Trick to Catch the Old One, 1608 : " Put a good tale in his ear, so that it *comes off cleanly,* and there's a horse and man for us. I warrant thee." Again, in the first part of Marston's Antonio and Mellida:
" *Fla.* Faith, the song will seem to *come off* hardly.
[fc] *Catz*< Troth, not a whit, if you seem to *come off* quickly."
"STEEVENS.
Ths same expression occurs in The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Act II. Sc. L: *' Now trust me, madam, it *came hardly off;"* and in Hamlet, Act III. Sc. IL -. " Now this, overdone, has *come tardy off"* In these instances, and in those quoted by Mr. S. it seems t;o, mean, what we now call *getting through with, a thing** We s-tjll say a man *comes off** with credit, when he acquits himself well; and such appears to be the Poet's meaning here.
BLAKE WAY,